

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: To celebrate the Queen's 70 years of service we propose to have a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday 4th June at 10am followed by tea/coffee and cakes to provide an opportunity to come together to celebrate this historic milestone. We would welcome volunteers to assist with setting up / serving refreshments and cake donations. If you would like to help please contact the church office.

If you have any other suggestions / ideas on how to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee please speak to Canon Edward or contact the church office.

The Rosary will be said before every weekday Mass. Please join us and arrive half an hour before Mass to participate in these prayers for peace, particularly for Ukraine.

Church Cleaning: As we are now getting back to normal Mass services, we are looking for anyone who is willing to joining the church cleaning rota. This will involve spending approximately one hour on a 4 weekly rota. Please contact Kate on 07747 620087. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

AGM of Churches Together in Welling will be held at Wellspring Pentecostal Church, New Road, Welling on Sunday 29 May at 5.30pm. The meeting will be followed by refreshments and a service of worship at 6.30pm. Anyone with an interest in Christian Unity is most welcome. Copies of the agenda and minutes from the last meeting are available on the table in the porch.

Choir for 11.30 Mass: If you would like to sing with the small choir we are trying to revive, please come and speak to us at the end of Mass. We would be delighted to have your support!

A Day With Mary on Saturday 11th June at St Anselm, Dartford DA1 2HJ 9.30am to 4.30pm. For full details of the day please see the poster in the porch or go to www.adaywithmary.org. All welcome to attend. Please bring a packed lunch—tea/coffee provided.

Church Flowers: If you would like to join a rota to look after the flowers in church, please sign the list on the noticeboard in the church porch or contact Velia Dobinson. Everyone welcome—no floral experience needed. Velia 07789 673747.

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of flowers for church, please put your donation in the box on the wall at the back of the church labelled **Flowers**. Thank you.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark is seeking two *Fundraising Volunteers* (18yrs +) to help the fundraising team with administration during May & June 2022 at Bowen House, 59 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7J. This role will suit someone who is looking to get hands on experience in an office environment. To apply please send your CV with a cover note explaining you are interested in this role to Sarah Wood, HR Manager, via email sarahwood@rcaos.org.uk. More details of the role can be found at <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/seeking-two-southwark-fundraising-volunteers/>

**Job Vacancies:
Secretary to Episcopal Vicar for South East London and Commissions for Racial Quality and Education**

This is initially a 12 month contract for 3 days per week, based in Blackheath to support the newly created Episcopal Vicar function. This is a senior secretarial position which requires someone with considerable previous secretarial experience and excellent organisational skills. Must be very self-motivated. If you would like to apply for this role please send your CV along with a covering letter to HR@rcaos.org.uk by the closing date of 27th May 2022.

Diocesan Central Services Administrator
Based in Bowen House, SE1 this is a full time administrative position which will provide support for a variety of functions as well as covering reception duties. Must have previous admin/secretarial experience and be very adaptable to changing priorities. If you would like to apply for this role please send your CV along with a covering letter to HR@rcaos.org.uk by the closing date of 27th May 2022.

Parish Secretary to assist in the administration of Barnes parish. The role is to provide comprehensive support to the Parish Priest for all administrative matters within the Parish. This will cover secretarial, financial, office management and volunteer liaison. Previous secretarial experience is essential, along with good knowledge of bookkeeping/financial work. If you would like to apply for this position, please email your CV to barnes@rcaos.org.uk by the closing date of Tuesday, 7 June. For a full job description, please contact the parish office at barnes@rcaos.org.uk.

Full details of job vacancies are available on the Diocesan website: [Vacancies: Archdiocese of Southwark \(rcsouthwark.co.uk\)](http://Vacancies: Archdiocese of Southwark (rcsouthwark.co.uk))



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

26 DEEPDENE ROAD, WELLING, KENT DA16 3QL ☒ Telephone: 020 8303 4422

Parish Priest: Canon Edward Perera

website: www.saintstephens.co.uk Email: welling@rcaos.org.uk

Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: adminparish@saintstephens.co.uk

School St. Stephen's Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling, Kent. DA16 3QG
Telephone: 020 8303 9738

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Saturday 14th May

5pm Repose of the Soul of Nicholas Snell RIP
(Ev, Duane & Martin)

Sunday 15th May

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Elizabeth Sommers RIP—birthday
(G Robinson)

Mon 16th St Simon Stock

10am Sylvia Hogarth RIP

Tues 17th Feria

10am Joy & Fred Gilbert

Wed 18th St John I, Pope and Martyr

10am Ints of Saliya

Thurs 19th Feria

10am Lauren D'Costa—birthday

Fri 20th Feria

10am Lee Abreo - birthday

Sat 21st Feria

10am Priest's Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Saturday 21st May

5pm Cecilia Corbett RIP—anniv

Sunday 22nd May

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Niall Murphy

Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care.

DONATIONS

All donations are greatly appreciated to help support our church & parish. Thank you.

The offertory collection after the Liturgy of the Word during Mass on Saturday evening & Sunday morning is for parishioners who wish to donate with their gift aid envelopes or with loose cash. If you choose to donate via the digital plate in church, online or by standing order, please continue to do so—there is no need to change your chosen method of giving. The collection bag will also be circulated for second collections.

Donate online at <https://portal.myдона.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236> or <https://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport>—please include parish name and location or click on the PayPal donate button on www.saintstephens.co.uk. To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations see bank details below. Please consider signing up to our Gift Aid scheme. Contact the church office for more details.

NatWest Bank
Sort Code: 51-70-14
Account No. 39013332
Account Name: RCAS Welling
Please use your name as a reference (gift aiders please add your envelope number). Thank you.

Digital Collection Plates are situated at the back of the church. Making a donation is simple and quick. Press one of the donation values or Other Amount. Tap your card or phone on the card reader. For donations greater than £45, the card must be inserted. Your donation can be gift aided by completing a digital Gift Aid Declaration on the Digital Collection Plate screen (name, address and email address required) and all future donations you make using this card will automatically be recorded as a gift aid donation. A Gift Aid Declaration is required when using the Digital Collection Plate for the first time even if you are registered for Gift Aid at St Stephen's.

My dear people,

This weekend and next our Gospel Readings are from the Last Supper discourse in John. In John the Last Supper discourse spans from chapter 13 to 17. Jesus makes his last will or testament in the form of a speech to his disciples. In the bible there are many such speeches—for e.g. Paul's address to the leaders of Ephesus (Acts 20); Jacob's farewell address to his sons (Gen.47:29ff)

The Gospel begins at the beginning of the 'farewell speech.' Judas has just left the room to betray him. The brief introduction focuses on two things—firstly Jesus tells the disciples of his departure ("I am with you only a little while longer") and secondly he gives them a new commandment, namely to love one another just as he loved them. It is important to note that in making these two points Jesus expresses a great affection to them as he calls them 'little children'.

In the first part of the Gospel text before giving the new commandment—to love one another—Jesus uses the word glory five times. In the Gospel of John 'Glory' is a key word. In fact the second part of the Gospel from the Last Supper to the Resurrection is known as "the Book of Glory". Jesus' total obedience gives glory to the Father and in turn the Father will glorify him. This is the author's way of reassuring the community to keep the hope of the Lord's return.

What is this new commandment of love one may ask? The Hebrew covenant made the love of God and love of neighbour a mandate. The difference Jesus speaks of is based not on a law but based upon a heartfelt relationship. Jesus tells his disciples that 'there is no greater love than this to lay down one's life for one's friends' (Jn.15:13). Jesus put that love into action on the cross.

God Bless and love you.
Canon Edward

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Scripture Insights

As our celebration of the resurrection of the Lord continues, the Church again subtly reminds us of the complete paschal mystery: Christ's passage through suffering and death to new life in God. This is the full reality of our continuing life in Christ and the message Christians proclaim by word and action. Today's Scriptures continue to weave past, present, and future into a single proclamation of the Good News of Jesus the Christ.

Last Sunday's reading from Acts described Paul and Barnabas turning their mission toward the Gentiles. Today's first reading continues their journey to "the ends of the earth" (Acts 13:47). In their effort to proclaim the Gospel, these early disciples discover one of the abiding truths of the Christian life: "It is necessary to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God" (14:22).

As apocalyptic literature, Revelation focuses on the future completion of God's work in Christ. In the past, Israel's prophets envisioned the final age of salvation in powerful imagery that saw everything made new—Israel, Jerusalem, the Temple, and even Israel's relationship with God. Today's reading appears near the end of Revelation's description of God's reign in all its fullness at the end of time. The description of a new heaven and earth points to the re-creation of all things, an existence devoid of evil or chaos, symbolised by "the [chaotic!] sea was no more" (Rv 21:1). In this new world, God will dwell with humankind in a relationship as close as marriage, in which two become as one.

The setting of the Gospel is Jesus' supper with his disciples shortly before his death. John interprets that sacrifice as the ultimate act of love: giving one's very life for others. Jesus' sacrifice in the past provides the vision and mission for our present and future.

Reflections

- Paul and Barnabas take on the age-old-role of apprentices. They learn the "trade" of discipleship from Jesus. Then they go out into the world, travelling across communities to tell stories of what God had done for them. Imagine yourself as an apprentice disciple. What more do you still want to learn?
- The Lord makes all things new. The work of creation continues across time and space. We play an integral role in the ongoing work of creation as disciples. Each time we feed the hungry or visit the sick, with every patient pause and forgiving peace, we inch closer to a new heaven and a new earth. How are we as a parish community contributing to the new creation?
- Jesus offers the new commandment to love one another after he washes the disciples' feet. As we near the end of the Easter season, let us return to the night of the Last Supper and reflect on how this commandment has informed the disciples faith since Holy Thursday.

The Collection for the Priest Training Fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 6 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you.

Donate Online: [Priest Training Fund 2022: Archdiocese of Southwark \(rcaos.org.uk\)](https://www.rcaos.org.uk/priest-training-fund-2022)

Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (below)

Telephone weekdays 9am – 5pm: 020 7960 2504

Cash / Cheque – please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes at the back of church.



Donations can also be made by gift aid envelope, card reader in church & online (choose *Priest's Training Fund*), online bank payment (bank details on front of newsletter, please reference your donation with *Priest's Training Fund* & your gift aid number if applicable). Cheques (payable to St Stephen's Church) and/or cash also accepted. Many thanks.

Celebration of Mass: At St Stephen's, we will continue to offer some socially distanced seating in church for those who wish to maintain a space around them. We encourage face coverings to be worn by everyone in church and hand sanitisers should be used entering and leaving church. Any person displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church.

Baptism Preparation Classes for parents wishing to baptise their child(ren) at St Stephen's on Tuesday 17th May and Wednesday 8th June at 7pm in church. Please note that parents must attend **both** classes.

Children's Liturgy: Video of the week's Gospel reading, a reflection and a final prayer. Go to [Celebrate | Following Your Faith | Children's Liturgy \(rpbbooks.co.uk\)](https://www.rpbbooks.co.uk/celebrate-following-your-faith-childrens-liturgy)

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday 9th July at St. George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1st /10th / 25th / 40th / 50th /60th + wedding anniversary this year, please email us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk by 31st May so you can receive an invitation from Archbishop John to attend this special Mass. Spaces are limited. Please provide the title of your parish location e.g. Welling, and your names, home address and the anniversary you are celebrating.

THE SPIRIT THAT GIVES US LIFE' JOHN 6:63
The All Nations Catholic Charismatic Group invites all the people of the parish for the celebration of the feast of the Pentecost at St Andrews Church, Thornton Heath, Croydon on Sunday 5th June from 1pm to 7pm. The feast of Pentecost is an integral part of our Christian life. Our main celebrant will be His Grace Most Rev Archbishop Emeritus Kevin McDonald. In attendance as well are Rev Fr Francis Utotu and Rev Fr Mark Binang. Let us come together to celebrate the birthday of our church. Food and drinks will be provided after the Eucharistic celebration. Please see the poster on the notice board for more information.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend: Covid has caused many issues within our society, isolation, loneliness, and conflict between couples. *Marriage Enrichment* provides the opportunity for couples to bring joy, romance and excitement back into their relationships. Join us at [St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre – Hendon, London](https://www.stjosephspastoralcentre.com) on Saturday 16th July starting at 9am and Sunday 17th July finishing at 4pm for a non-residential weekend. £50 per couple. For further information please go to [ME weekendHendon 16th to 17th July 2022 - World Wide Marriage Encounter England and Wales \(wwme.org.uk\)](https://www.wmme.org.uk)